

the adverse viability of the project. Government of India has been approached for permission for closure.

(f) NMDC, as the lessee, is examining the possibility of reviving the project in association with any private sector partner who may be prepared to bring adequate capital.

(g) The resumption of work will depend upon the viability of the project.

(h) No profit/loss account has been prepared by J&K MDC as the Company's commercial operations have not yet commenced.

[Translation]

#### **Outstanding Amount of Telephone Bills Against Ministers/M.Ps.**

5487. SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Cabinet Ministers/ex-Ministers and M.P./ex-M.Ps. against whom payment of telephone bills is outstanding;

(b) the amount of telephone bills outstanding against each of them, separately; and

(c) the details of the action taken by the Government for the recovery of the amount ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b) Official telephones of Ministers are in the names of concerned Ministries and a separate list is not maintained. Information regarding the number of MPs/Ex. MPs against whom payment of telephone bills is outstanding has been called for and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) The recovery of outstanding dues is being pursued with concerned MPs/Ex-MPs. Outstanding dues against Ministries/Departments are being pursued with concerned Ministries/Departments.

[English]

#### **Mining Lease in Assam**

5488. DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to lease out 5 hectare of reserved forest land in Chandardinga hills in the district of Dhubri, Assam to M/s. Rock Product Traders Company;

(b) if so, the terms and conditions therefor;

(c) whether the Technology Mission, Assam pleaded to scrap the mining lease agreement; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and reaction of the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) and (b) As per information furnished by the State Govt. of Assam, 5.0 hectares of reserved forest land in Chandardinga hills has been granted for rock quarry in favour of M/s. Rock Product Traders Company in the district of Dhubri subject to the following terms and conditions :

(i) Compensatory afforestation is to be raised over equivalent non-forest land which will be notified as protected forest land as per advice of Ministry of Environment and Forest;

(ii) Mining Lease has been granted initially for a period of five years in accordance with Assam Minor Mineral Concession Rules, 1994;

(iii) The mining lease is renewable for one or two periods each not exceeding the period specified in the original lease;

(iv) The lessee shall pay to the State Government royalty @ Rs. 70/- per cubic metre of rock removed by him from the leased area; and

(v) The lessee shall have to acquire prior permission of the Divisional Forest Officer to remove/fall forest produce, if any, occurring in the area in the course of mining operation. The lessee shall pay royalty/compensation at reasonable rate fixed by the Forest Department.

(c) and (d) Though the Appropriate Technology Mission, Assam considered that it would cause serious environmental degradation, the Government of Assam is of the view that there is no forest at all in the applied for area and that the area is rock, barren and there is absence of Flora and Fauna. The State Govt. feels that mining in a small area of 5 hectares will neither cause environmental degradation nor any change of flow of the river or flood in the area.

#### **Vocational Training Centres for Women**

5489. SHRI SIBU SOREN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Women Vocational Training Centres established and run by the Union Government in Jharkhand Region;

(b) whether there is any proposal to establish more Vocational Training Centres in that region;

(c) steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to establish new Women's Vocational Centres in Jharkhand region; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?